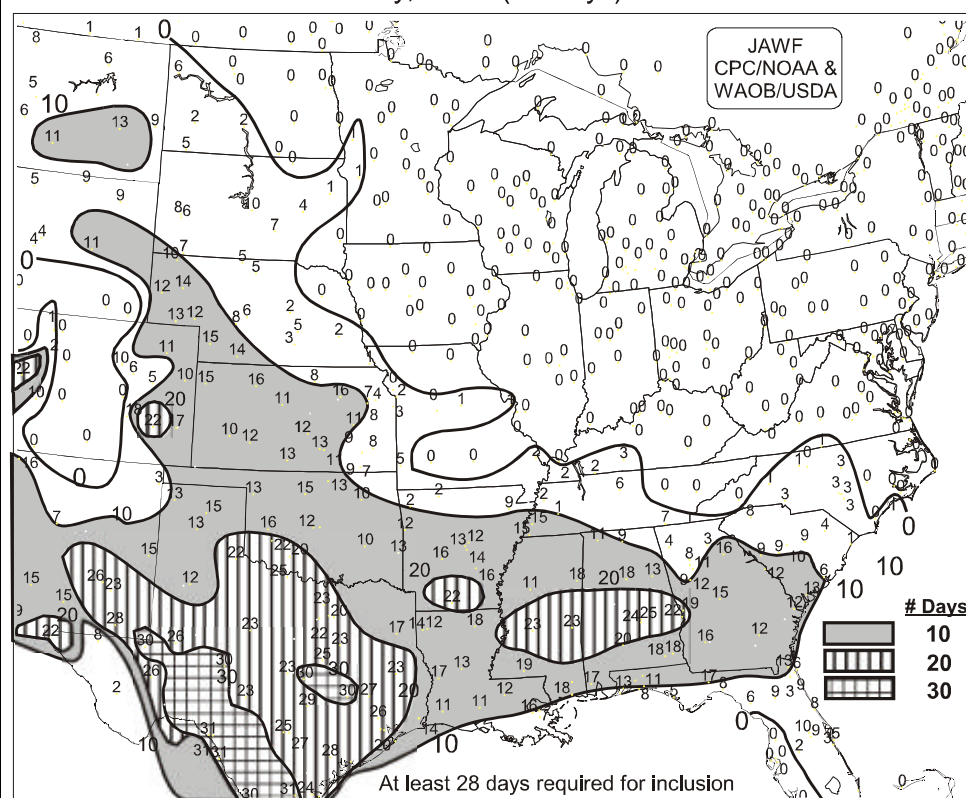


WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
National Agricultural Statistics Service
and World Agricultural Outlook Board

Number of Days Maximum Temperature 95°F or Greater July, 2000 (31 Days)



July 2000 finished as one of the coolest Julys on record for the central Corn Belt eastward to the mid-Atlantic and New England coasts, with highs failing to reach 95°F (and 90°F in many locations) across much of the region. In contrast, persistent heat gripped the Rockies, High Plains, and Southeast, where many stations in the latter two areas experienced several days of triple-digit-heat (not shown). Fortunately, slightly cooler and wetter conditions filtered into the Southeast and southern Plains during the last week of the month, providing some relief from the heat and dryness. As a result, most Midwest and mid-Atlantic crops are in good to excellent condition according to NASS; however, non-irrigated crops and pastures in some Southeastern States are rated poor to very poor.

HIGHLIGHTS

July 23 - 29, 2000

Cooler air and widespread rain moved into the **interior South** and **southern Atlantic States**, aiding drought-stressed pastures and summer crops, including cotton, soybeans, and peanuts. Weekly rainfall ranged from 2 to 4 inches, with locally higher totals, in **Peninsular Florida** and from the **southern Appalachians** and **Carolinas** northeastward into **southern New England**. From **Alabama** westward into **Texas**, however, topsoils remained extremely dry despite scattered showers and favorably cooler weather. Meanwhile in the **Corn Belt**, showery, mild weather (temperatures again remained below 90°F) maintained generally favorable conditions for corn

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